Cylke, Frank Kurt.

COORDINATION OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS.

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COORDINATION OF LIBRARY SERVICES FOR BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS

Summary of a meeting
under the sponsorship of the
Hospital Libraries Section
International Federation of Library Associations
September 6, 1977
Brussels, Belgium

by

Frank Kurt Cylke

September 23, 1977

2/15/78 Complimentary Copy

Introduction

On Tuesday, September 6, 1977, librarians serving blind and physically handicapped individuals met, on special invitation, with members of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Hospital Libraries Section. Those present discussed the need to organize within the IFLA structure to develop common technical and service guidelines.

Background

Prior to the meeting all participants received a proposal from Frank Kurt Cylke, Chief, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, U.S.A. The proposal stated that: "Library service for the handicapped has the same philosophical base as that for the nonhandicapped. Many of the service and technical approaches are identical; those not identical are quite closely allied. Although providing appropriate library material for blind and handicapped people has necessitated the utilization of mechanical, electrical, and electronic engineering disciplines, the medium selected must be related to service and library philosophy."

Mr. Cylke suggested that library service to handicapped individuals should be addressed by an organization of librarians such as IFLA rather than by an organization devoted to the welfare of the blind. Further, he noted five areas requiring immediate attention: 1) the development of an international inventory of library resources; 2) the need for identification of existing

production formats; 3) the need for standardization of production formats; 4) the development of an effective international interlibrary loan mechanism; and 5) the need for a coordinated application of existing and future technologies to production requirements.

Meeting

At the meeting Heleen Rosskopf, Head Librarian for the Blind, Amsterdam Public Library, Netherlands, supported the proposed development of an IFLA oriented coordination effort and asked that librarians "standardize original products so that exchange (may be) possible." Ms. Rosskopf stated that "The original recording of talking books, should in every country be the same, so that copies on every sort of audiomaterial could be made on request; and we should produce all braille books in full script (Grade 1) so that we can borrow books easily from each other."

Mr. Cylke next moderated a discussion of the attendees to the point of his proposal. Sixteen representatives were heard. George Chandler, Director General of the National Library, Canberra, Australia, asked that the concept that the "transmission of the heritage of literature" be foremost in everyone's thoughts. He then, as did all speakers, supported the establishment of an IFLA working group.

Supporting comments were then received from librarians representing Bermuda, Belgium, Canada, Tobago, South Africa, Germany,

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and the United States of America. D. Zarkov, Director of the Republican Central Library for the Blind, Russia, cited the volume of work that would be required of an IFLA group and recommended that a "special IFLA commission" be established.

Special Meeting

On concluding the ninety-minute Hospital Libraries Section meeting the librarians serving blind patrons met apart for a two-hour working session. During this gathering several areas were discussed, plans made for future activity, and volunteers identified to make up a coordinating group to ensure that work goes on.

Plans

All agreed that the user group to be addressed would include blind, visually, and physically handicapped individuals.

Further, there was common agreement that seven areas require immediate attention: 1) Copyright; 2) Bibliographic Control; 3) Postal Regulations and Custom Laws; 4) Format; 5) Library Identification; 6) International and National Liaison; and 7) Research and Development.

Under the direction of F. K. Cylke, responsibilities were assumed for pursuing work. Position papers will be developed for circulation and discussion at the IFLA meeting in 1978:

Area	Individual
1) Mission Statement	Frank Kurt Cylke, U.S.A.
2) Copyright	Francoise Hebert, CANADA
3) Postal Regulations and Custom Laws	H. Fidder, NETHERLANDS
4) Format	Saleh Muhanna, SAUDI ARABIA
5) Bibliographic Control	Frank Kurt Cylke, U.S.A.
6) Library Identification	Ulla Cahling, SWEDEN
7) International Relationships	Anna Ubostad, NORWAY

Papers will identify specific areas requiring coordinated international attention. A discussion of each point directed the identified authors.

Steering Group

It was also suggested that a "steering group" be established by IFLA to ensure the continuation of coordinated work begun in Brussels in 1977.

Conclusion

Following all discussions the Hospital Libraries Section of IFLA, under the chairmanship of Petra B. Leeuwenburgh, Netherlands, issued a resolution calling for the creation of a "Working Group" to pursue proposed efforts related to library services for the blind and physically handicapped.

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